

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

I wish to share my input about this proposal. I have been dealing with a couple of deaths this week and was not able to attend the meeting on the 21st.

The first thing we need to remember is to NOT DO ANY HARM. The proposals will in fact do harm. The OPTIONAL services are VITALLY NEEDED items for the individuals that it would affect. We have to remember that anyone could be in the need for these services; Birth to Three population, children, young adults, older adults as well as the Geriatric disabled that we have now.

To ask a population that is trying to live in below poverty levels now - to pay co-pays and premiums is almost criminal. They have trouble just living. That would mean they would have to decide whether to eat or go to the doctor. To do away with dental and vision would just about make it impossible for the individuals who could work to be able to go to work. These individuals want to have lives also just like the rest of the community. They need transportation to get to anything that they need. What kind of a life is there in the community if they are isolated with rotting teeth, near blind, and have no wheel chair because the funding cuts due to the 1115 Waiver.

The original 1115 Waiver was intended to enhance services not cut them. This proposal will in my opinion do more harm than benefit if the cuts are allowed. I have three children that these cuts could affect. I realize the budget problems of our state are intense but we have to be careful not to cause harm to those who are getting benefits at this time.

If you ever had to lie in a bed awaiting a care provider to come and assist you to just get up to go to the bathroom, when none showed up that morning and you could not reach your phone to call for help - you would see this issue in a different light. Being one of the vulnerable people that would be affected by this Waiver would help you to see. It can happen to anyone to become one of the vulnerable disabled whether through accident or chance or birth. What would you do if you find your transportation to the doctor's office was cut and you had no way to get there because you were in a wheel chair? How about if you had to deal with rotten teeth, that had gone so far as to give you blood poisoning. It could have been taken care of with maybe \$69.00 apiece fillings but now needs major hospitalization costing thousands of dollars. The infection injures your heart and now you are even more disabled than before and the costs are mounting. There is more to see here including having higher costs. What about Quality of life.

What about the Self-Determination of living in community settings instead of institutions. Would these individuals end up back in institutions or out on the street instead of in a community. Without services to assist these individuals living in the communities across our state, they do not have the ability to do so.

I am speaking here as a Parent and a citizen of the State. With my position as Parent Representative on the State Interagency Coordinating Council, I have spoken with many, many families that have needs that are going to be affected. Also having talked with many families at the International Parent to Parent Conferences and being on the SICC Family Leadership Team I have talked with and heard many families stories across our State. I am sharing here things that have been shared with me. They all state, "DO NO HARM!". Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sandra Lund, Parent